

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 4178

1. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES TO EC COMMISSION:

2. "(COMPLIMENTARY OPENING)

"THE USG UNDERSTANDS THAT THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRI-
CULTURAL MINISTERS AT ITS JUNE 18-20 MEETING APPROVED A
COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE
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SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. IT IS

THE USG UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LIST OF PRODUCTS COVERED BY SUCH A SYSTEM WILL INCLUDE PROCESSED TOMATOES, CITRUS JUICE, AND CANNED PEACHES.

"THE USG CALLS ATTENTION TO THE VARIOUS REPRESENTATIONS THE U.S. HAS MADE OPPOSING MIP'S ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES THROUGHOUT 1968 AND 1969, INCLUDING GATT ARTICLE XXII CONSULTATIONS IN OCTOBER 1969. MOST RECENTLY THE USG DELIVERED A NOTE TO THE EC COMMISSION ON MARCH 15, 1973. THE USG HAS URGED THE EC NOT TO ADOPT SUCH A SYSTEM IN VIEW OF U.S. TRADE INTERESTS AND EC RESPONSIBILITIES

UNDER THE GATT. THE EC HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THE MARCH NOTE OF THE USG.

"ACCORDINGLY, THE USG REQUESTS FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC COMMISSION UNDER GATT ARTICLE XXII:1 IN SEPTEMBER ON THE NEW EC MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. THE USG FEELS THAT MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES WILL VIOLATE GATT BINDINGS THE U.S. HAS ON CITRUS JUICES AND CANNED PEACHES, AND COULD NULLIFY OR IMPAIR RECENT UK AND FRENCH LIBERALIZATION ON THESE ITEMS UNDER GATT ARTICLE XXII.

"(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING)"

3. FYI: IN ARTICLE XXII CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD, INTER ALIA,

(A) DESCRIBE HOW SYSTEM WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH EC GATT OBLIGATIONS AND HARMFUL OUR TRADE INTERESTS IF IMPLEMENTED IN MANNER EC INTENDS

(B) ASK EC RE-CONSIDER DECISION TO INSTITUTE MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES. ROGERS

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